(e) As already stated above, the exports of cotton are under OGL.

2604. CANCELLED

Bringing deep sea fisheries under purview of Ministry of Commerce and Industry

2605. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI THENNALAG BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to transfer the subject of deepsea fisheries from Ministry of Agriculture to Ministry of Commerce and Industry due to administrative compulsions;

(b) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Agriculture has expressed its inability to properly appreciate and understand the commercial aspects of deep-sea fisheries sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under the present set up, the Ministry of Agriculture is unable to decide issues and problems of the deepsea fisheries in the country; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage deep sea fisheries in the country through efficient and proper administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to amend the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 to entrust deep sea fisheries to the Ministry of Commerce.

(d) The Government is paying due attention to the development of deep sea fishery in the country. A Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy has been announced in November, 2004 with focus on the developmental needs of deep sea fishing sector parallel to development of fishing and fisheries in coastal marine sector. With a view to streamline fishing operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), guidelines for deep sea fishing operations were issued in November, 2002 which have been modified in September, 2004. Letter of Permission for fishing in EEZ is being issued to Indian entrepreneurs. Permitting joint ventures is also under consideration of Government. An Inter-Ministerial Empowered

Committee has also been set up in the Ministry to efficiently administer the deep sea fisheries.

Implementation of new Agriculture Policy

† 2606. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Agriculture Policy was announced in the year 2000 in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been chalked out for its implementation; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the impact of the implementation of new Agriculture Policy on agriculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The National Agriculture Policy announced in the year 2000 seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro business, create employment in rural areas, secure a fair standard of living for the farmers and agricultural workers and their families, discourage migration to urban areas and face the challenges arising out of economic liberalization and globalization.

Many schemes, which *inter-alia* include increase in the production and productivity of various crops including oilseeds and pulses, diversification to the high value crops, strengthening of agriculture marketing infrastructure, promotion of agriculture extension, promotion of water and soil conservation through watershed approach under natural resources management, and national horticulture mission, have been introduced.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.